Widows dubbed as Witches

2190. PROF. (SHRIMATI) BHARATI RAY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of a report published in the Pioneer on 2nd December, 1999 captioned, Widows dubbed witches; robbed of home, hearth;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what steps Government propose to take in this regard; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) A report has been called for from the State Government of Bihar. Further necessary action will be taken in due course.

'Z' Category Security

2191. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of persons in the country getting the 'Z' plus or 'Z' security and the total expenditure incurred thereon, per year; and

(b) whether a review in this regard is done from time to time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) 'Public Order' and 'Police' are State subjects under Constitution of India. Therefore, responsibility for providing security to persons residing within their jurisdiction and expenditure thereon is that of the concerned State Governments and UT Administrations.

(b) As per the Security Scheme, the need for security and scale of security arrangements are required to be reviewed periodically based on latest threat perception in each case and necessary changes in security made as warranted. This is a continuing process.

Cooperation of General Public in maintaining Peace

2192. SARDAR GURCHARAN SINGH TOHRA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Commissioner of Delhi Police had assured the Committee on Home Affairs in its Fifty-Fourth Report that Cooperation of the general public in maintaining peace and prevention of crime in the Capital is being sought;

(b) if so, what is the present scenario of such efforts in the North-West Delhi, particularly in Rohini; and